

Title: Starting Over: Rediscovering The Heart of Discipleship

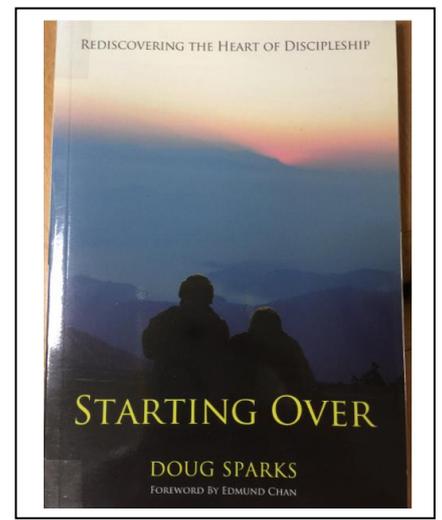
Author : Doug Sparks

Category : Discipleship

Paperback : 160 pages

“but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”

Luke 22:32 ESV



Doug Sparks lived 1928-2003. He lived. He left. And he has left behind a trail of living legacy of what it takes to be a man of God. Here are five topics from his messages (in 1975) put together into a book for our slow reading and appreciating the following areas:

The Lifestyle of a Man of God

The Attitude of a Man of God

The Conviction of a Man of God

The Ambition of a Man of God

The Teamwork of Men of God

In our dailies of learning, it is good to set aside time to learn from our seniors, even best those who has walked with the Lord. Through them imparting gems and wisdom we can draw precious lessons and especially mistakes to avoid for our lives.

Through these messages by Doug Sparks, one can catch a glimpse of some words of wisdom for our living in areas like humility, comparison, prayer, love, integrity, sacrifice and others more. Here are some quotes from the book:

I believe that humility is the mother virtue of all virtues. Love is the supreme virtue, but it is born out of humility. There can be no love without humility. (pg37)

If I am having problems of rivalry or comparison or esteeming myself better, I just start praying for that other fellow. I say, “Lord, You bless him more than me. Lord, what can I do to promote him?” And I just keep praying that. That’s hard on the ego! I find that my flesh doesn’t like that, and I don’t have to pray very long before it’s pretty well sorted out. My flesh is afraid that if I pray too long, God might bless him or her too much! (pg53)

Throughout the book, being a missionary to several parts of the world and also husband to Leila his wife, Doug has been transparent to share about his marriage life, the care taking where Leila underwent therapy when she was sick, the discipleship life and discover the characteristics of being a man or woman of God.

This book is available for loan at the Resource Library.

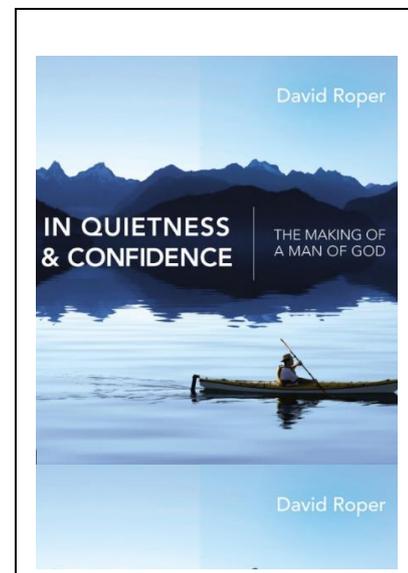
Title: In Quietness & Confidence: The Making of a Man of God

Author : David Roper

Category : Devotional

Hardcover : 192 pages

“For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, “In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.” But you were unwilling,”
Isaiah 30:15 ESV



Last October 23rd, I decided to use this devotional book: "In Quietness & Confidence: The Making of a Man of God" as part of my daily devotion. It was not so smooth sailing. I was not so disciplined in reading book as in this case, reading a devotional book. By the grace of Christ, on 9th July around 11pm, I finally completed reading this book and recently, on 27th July, I asked a group of intercessors to pray that I may be able to begin writing a book review on this devotional book.

Today, 19th August, there was this urge of penning down my thoughts and learnings which I have acquired through using this wonderful devotional book. There are altogether 31 chapters in it and they are very rich and in-depths in terms of inspiring one's own spiritual life and enhancing one's own spiritual maturity! This book anchors on the Bible verse, Isaiah 30:15 KJV which states, "For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not." Would you desire to come to God and discover that your strength is anchored on this truth: "In Quietness and Confidence"? By being quiet before the Lord our God and by putting our confidence in Him, we shall, indeed, have our spiritual life strengthened! We are weak and that is why we need to come to God regularly so that we may be strong in the midst of adversities and calamities!

Let me share what I have gleaned from this book. The first chapter, "The Quiet Man", caught my immediate attention. I am a quiet man too. I think a lot and love to pen down my thoughts immediately when they flash through my mind. Reading Psalm 131 was very refreshing. I never get tired of this encouraging psalm. It reminds me the need for 'quietness and confidence' again and again (which is a close equivalent to solitude and silence.) I was reminded of "The Little Chamber" where I met God. I have learnt this: "There is a chamber -- a chamber in God himself which none can enter but the one, the individual, the particular man. Out of which chamber that man has to bring revelation and strength for his brethren . . ." In the midst of our busy-ness, we need to carve out precious time to be with the Lord our God. Let us not allow God to wait too long for us but let us eagerly go to Him and delight in spending time with Him, more than with our loved ones or with our friends! I am sure that this book is going to be the impetus that enhances your spiritual fervour! I am also sure that this book will have you "discover how you can 'live quietly' and yet deeply in the midst of life's homeliest duties and excessive demands."

It is my prayer that this short introduction to this book will help to stir your heart into wanting to pick up, read and use this book for your personal time alone with God our living and loving Heavenly Father. Amen. Will you enjoy the very presence of God?

This book is available for loan at the Resource Library.